

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

05 1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a high Tc superconducting tape or a high Tc superconducting wire with a metal sheath, said the method comprising the steps of:

providing a superconducting core;

placing a metal sheath around the superconducting core;

performing a number plurality of annealing steps, characterised in that an additional;  
and

after a final annealing step, applying a surface layer for modifying the electrical properties of the wire/tape is applied after the final annealing to the wire or tape, the surface layer including an electrical insulating layer provided on the metal sheath and a low friction layer provided on the electrical insulating layer.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 1, ~~characterised by using a coloured or a marked~~ wherein the surface layer is colored or marked so as to be able to distinguish between different wires or tapes, ~~or different portions of the same wire or tape, or different sides of the same wire or tape, for instance to make one of the sides of the wire/tape.~~

4. (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A The method according to claim 4 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the surface layer with a low friction layer is composed of tetrafluoroethylene or Teflon®.

AS 6. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the surface layer is made of polymeric coating materials which are coating material is selected from a group consisting of polyurethane, polyesterimide, epoxy, teflon and tetrafluoroethylene or another insulating material.

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method according to claim 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the surface ~~layers contain~~ layer contains any one selected from a group consisting of ceramic powder, ~~graphit~~ graphite, carbon fiber, and metallic, polymeric or elastomeric particles or fibers carbon, fiber or metallic particles/fibres.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method according to claim 1, ~~characterised by~~ applying wherein the insulating surface layer is applied by any one selected from a group consisting of painting, coating, DIP-coating, ~~spaying or spraying~~, and dry powder coating.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method according to claim + 6, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the coating material of the surface layer is any one selected from a group consisting of thermal curable, UV curable or , and solvent based.

10. (Canceled)

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method according to claim 1, ~~characterised in that~~ wherein the surface layer is over either a single ~~wire/tape~~ wire or tape or a bunch of wires/tapes wires or tapes.

12. (New) A high Tc superconducting wire or tape comprising a metal matrix containing embedded superconducting filaments and at least two surface layers, wherein said at least two surface layers include an inner layer comprised of an electrically insulating polymer or elastomer, and an outer, low friction layer.